

U.S. Serial No. 09/836,467

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REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 6-7, 9-10, 12-17, 21, 23, and 27-28 are now pending.

Claims 1, 18, 24, 29, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Yamashita et al., U.S. 6,768,558, (Yamashita). Claims 1-5, 8, 11, 18-20, 22, 24-26, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP11-167603A to Takahiro in view of Fukunaga et al., U.S. 6,775,023, (Fukunaga).

The rejected claims have been canceled. Further, allowable Claims 10 and 21 have been rewritten into independent form, and Claims 6-7, 9, and 23 amended to be dependent on one of Claims 10 and 21. Accordingly, all claims

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that remain pending in the application are believed to be in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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